

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1415

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ELAB DA

SUBJ: MOGENS GLISTRUP TO BE INDICTED FOR TAX EVASION

REF: COPENHAGEN 1367

SUMMARY: MOGENS GLISTRUP, CONTROVERSIAL CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW ANTI-TAX PARTY IN DANISH PARLIAMENT, THE PROGRESS PARTY, WILL BE INDICTED SOON ON CHARGES OF TAX EVASION AND FRAUD. GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PROSECUTE GLISTRUP IS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT NO DEAL WITH HIS PROGRESS PARTY WAS MADE DURING RECENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS.

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END SUMMARY.

1. ATTORNEY GENERAL PER LINDGAARD HAS REQUESTED PARLIAMENT TO WAIVE IMMUNITY FOR MP MOGENS GLISTRUP, CHAIRMAN OF THE PROGRESS PARTY, TO PERMIT HIS INDICTMENT FOR TAX EVASION AND FRAUD. DECISION TO PROSECUTE - CAPPING TWO YEARS OF EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION - INDICATES THAT GOVERNMENT FEELS IT HAS SOLID CASE AGAINST THIS BRILLIANT AND POLITICALLY DANGEROUS TAX AUTHORITY.

2. GLISTRUP HAS CONDEMNED DECISION AS POLITICAL PERSECUTION AND THREATENED TO FIGHT FOR HIS PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY. HOWEVER, PARLIAMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY WAIVED MEMBERS' IMMUNITY IN CASES INVOLVING SERIOUS CRIMES, AND IS EXPECTED TO DO SO ALSO IN THIS CASE -- PROBABLY THIS WEEK.

3. GLISTRUP FACES CHARGES OF EVADING 2.2 MILLION KRONER (375 THOUSAND DOLLARS) IN TAXES DURING PAST 8 YEARS. HE WILL ALSO BE INDICTED FOR DEFRAUDING SOME OF HIS TAX CLIENTS, SEVERAL OF WHOM ARE OR WILL BE SIMILARLY INDICTED FOR EVASION. MOST PROMINENT AMONG THESE IS SIMON SPIES, COLORFUL MULTIMILLIONAIRE OWNER OF SPIES TRAVEL BUREAU, WHO REPORTEDLY OWES FIVE MILLION KRONER (850 THOUSAND DOLLARS) IN UNPAID TAXES.

4. GLISTRUP'S TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO BE LENGTHY AND QUESTION OF HIS BEING PERMITTED TO CONTINUE AS ACTIVE MP WHILE UNDER TRIAL IS STILL TO BE DECIDED BY FOLKETING'S COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE. IF CONVICTED, GLISTRUP COULD BE SENTENCED TO AS MUCH AS FOUR YEARS PRISON ON EVASION CHARGE.

5. DECISION TO PROSECUTE IS MAJOR STEP BY HARTLING GOVERNMENT INDICATING (A) THAT GOVT'S CASE IS BELIEVED TO BE AIR TIGHT AS FAILURE TO CONVICT WOULD MAKE GLISTRUP A POLITICAL MARTYR WHO COULD CONCEIVABLY EXPLOIT SUCH AN ACQUITTAL TO PROPEL HIMSELF INTO THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP, AND (B) THAT THE HARTLING GOVT
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DID NOT MAKE ANY POLITICAL DEAL WITH THE PROGRESS PARTY IN EXCHANGE FOR ITS SUPPORT DURING LAST WEEK'S CRISIS. THIS EXPLAINS FACT THAT DURING CRISIS HARTLING REFUSED TO MEET ALONE WITH GLISTRUP, MAKING NECESSARY MEDIATION BY CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERS.
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